

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5077

As of February 9, 2009

Title: An act relating to creating the historically Black college fund pilot project.

Brief Description: Creating the historically Black college fund pilot project.

Sponsors: Senators Jacobsen and Kline.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/06/09.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

Background: Historically black colleges and universities are colleges or universities that were established before 1964 with the intention of serving the African American community. There are more than 100 historically black colleges in the United States. Historically black colleges were established specifically to serve African American students, though many students of other racial backgrounds also attend.

Summary of Bill: The Historically Black College Fund Pilot Project is created. Up to 100 students may use their state-funded need grant awards to study at Morehouse College, Howard University, Spelman College, Grambling State University, or Tuskegee University. The project is administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), which may adopt rules to establish eligibility criteria for students and participating institutions.

By December 15, 2014, the HECB reports the results of the pilot project and makes recommendations regarding revision or expansion. The pilot project expires on June 30, 2014.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The number of African-American males in Washington colleges is declining, so we need to do more to provide more educational opportunities. This is an investment in the future, not a loss of state dollars. Historically, Black Colleges offer educational experiences that are not available elsewhere. Many of these students will return to Washington prepared to significantly contribute to our culture and economy. The bill should be expanded to include all of the historically Black Colleges.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Jacobsen, prime sponsor; Barbara Clarkson, The Thurston Group; Thomas Calhoun, University of Washington.